

REMARKS

Claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 33, 34, and 40 are presented for examination. The withdrawn claims 1-23, 29-32 and 35-39 have been cancelled.

Claim 24 have been amended to address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101 and 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Also, claim 24 has been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention.

The Examiner's assistance during the August 21, 2008 Examiner's Interview is greatly appreciated.

As discussed during the Interview, claim 24 has been amended to stress that the control system is configured for automatically releasing the purchase pick-up point from assignment in response to payment by the customer, and for assigning the purchase pick-up point to another customer as soon as the purchase pick-up point is released.

As pointed out in the Examiner's rejection, the specification indicates that a pick-up point may be assigned to another customer as soon as the purchase pick-up point is released.

The amended claim emphasizes that the system is configured for assigning the purchase pick-up point to another customer as soon as the purchase pick-up point is released (i.e. the pick-up point may be assigned to another customer as soon as the purchase pick-up point is released).

Claims 24, 25, 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vallabh in view of Khan. Claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vallabh in view of Joseph.

Claim 24, as amended, emphasizes that the control system is configured for automatically releasing from assignment to the customer the purchase pick-up point in response to payment by

the customer, and for assigning the purchase pick-up point to another customer as soon as the purchase pick-up point is released.

As discussed during the Examiner's Interview, the combined teachings of the Vallabh and Khan do not teach or suggest these features.

Moreover, the Declaration of Inventor under 37 CFR 1.132 is provided herewith to support the non-obviousness of the invention, as a whole.

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 33, 34, and 40 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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